new airport at an alternative site have been examined. The option for the realignment of the secondary runway has been preferred. The project, however, involves participation of a number of Government agencies. It has not been possible to take up the project because of the paucity of resources with the agencies involved.

Ban on use of food colours

1315. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food colours in all foods and drinks lead to cancer; and

(b) whether Government propose to ban use of all food colours as was done in the case of Tomato Ketchup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Only those colours which are considered to be safe, are permitted to be used in specified food articles under the provisions of PFA Rules, 1955. This Ministry on the basis of advice of Experts has decided to ban three synthetic colours. There is no proposal to ban use of all food colours.

Setting up of Central Directorate for Ayurveda

1316. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Central Directorate for Ayurveda in the Capital as reported in the Statesman of the 21st June, 1990, if so, what are the details of thereof indicating the functions of such a Directorate; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to start an All India Ayurveda University in Delhi and if so whether this has been decided in consultation with various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Govt. is considering a proposal for setting up a Department/ Directorate of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy in the Ministry to strengthen the infrastructure of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy. Details are being worked out.

(b) A proposal to set up a Central University of Ayurveda & Unani Medicine is under consideration of Govt. A Committee was constituted in March, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Adviser (Health), Planning Commission to consider this. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

High incidence of cancer

1317. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the high incidence of cancer of head and neck especially in the North Eastern area as pointed out in a survey made by one Shri Suraj Verma of New Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times of 28th May, 1990; and

(b) whether Government will extend all help to the Cancer Detection Society of India which is under formation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) Yes, Sir.